Abstract: Historians often attempt to shed light on women, children, the poor--those in society who are overlooked or neglected, and to tell the story of those who have not had a voice in history. Dipesh Chakrabarty reminds us that the sources we use to study those subjugated people are often taken from state investigations or social reformers; elite reformers thus mediate the voices of the subaltern, and historians ultimately study the state's initiatives. In this talk, I will discuss the difficulty of trying to locate the voice of those whom we often assume to lack agency, and will use an overview of my own work as an example. I will discuss two of my articles, one which explores Chinese coolies in Cuba, and the other, Girl Scouts in Republican China. In my first book project, "Precocious Politics," I examine social reforms for modern childrearing. When reading the work of elite child experts, I also formulated incipient ideas for a second book project, "Tested," regarding IQ testing of children. In both book projects, the Chinese state, like the historian, saw the value of investing in previously neglected subjects.